

# Site Plan Review

Fire Marshals and Fire Systems Retesting staff conduct Fire Department Site Plan reviews to ensure emergency access; adequate fire hydrant locations; fire flows; fire department connections; fire lanes; ladder truck accessibility in mid-rise to high-rise buildings and handicap accessibility. In addition, the physical designs of the streets are examined for characteristics such as width, length and grade to ensure adequate fire department access.



# Investigations

Fire Marshals conduct investigations of fire and explosive related incidents within the City, as well as incidents involving the release of hazardous materials and environmental crimes. Fire Marshals are empowered with full law enforcement powers to conduct criminal investigations, make arrests and prepare cases for prosecution related to these crimes.



Fire Marshals also investigate burn related injuries and construction accidents.

## Environmental Investigation Unit

Fire Marshals are tasked with the investigation of releases of hazardous materials; response to complaints of illegal dumping of hazardous materials, and environmental crimes. They conduct annual permit inspections and proactive inspections of all hazardous and industrial use buildings in the City. The Environmental Investigation Unit reviews and maintains records of spill prevention and countermeasure plans for facilities that require them; support and assist other City agencies to review current environmental cases and issues.

# THE ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

## *Fire Prevention And Life Safety Section*

*Preventing Fires Before  
They Start*

### CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT TODAY:

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<http://alexandriava.gov/fire/default.aspx>



# FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY SECTION

## Purpose

The Alexandria Fire Department Fire Prevention and Life Safety Section is responsible for all Fire Prevention, Fire Protection Systems Retesting, and Investigation functions for the City of Alexandria.

The section administers the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, applicable sections of the Virginia Construction Code and provisions of the Code of the City of Alexandria. Staff inspects existing properties for compliance with these codes as well as providing information and education to property owners, their representatives, and the occupants to achieve code compliance. The section provides inspection and oversight for the retesting of existing fire protection systems. Inspection staff responds to complaints and conducts annual inspections to ensure proper operation of these critical life safety systems. Fire Marshals investigate incidents relating to fires, explosion related incidents, as well as, incidents involving the release of hazardous materials and environmental crimes.

- Fire Prevention Code Inspections.
- Fire Protection Systems Retesting Inspections.
- Investigations of Fires, Explosions and Environmental Crimes.
- Response to Citywide Nuisance Complaints after normal business hours.

## Inspections

Fire Marshals conduct Fire Prevention Permit inspections. Staff is responsible for preventing fires through annual inspections of permitted commercial or public buildings, licensed facilities and industrial operations and other buildings within the City of Alexandria.

The Fire Marshals also inspect for fire and life safety hazards in all existing commercial, multi-family dwellings and state-licensed facilities including daycare, foster homes, nursing homes, schools and hospitals.



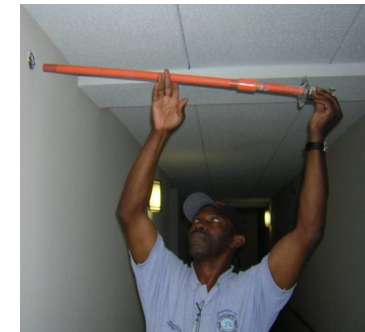
In addition, Fire Marshals conduct special event inspections where such things as temporary tents, outdoor food vendors and bon fires are common. Fire Marshals investigate complaints of overcrowding, locked or blocked exits and residential hoarding.

- Educate the Community on Fire Code Requirements
- Work with Property Owners to Ensure Fire Protection Systems Meet Inspection Requirements

## Fire Protection Systems

The Fire Protection Systems Retesting Unit (FPR) ensures existing fire protection systems throughout the City are

in-service, functioning properly, inspected, tested, and maintained appropriately. The Fire Protection Systems Retesting Unit deals with all types of fire protection systems including fire sprinkler,



fire pump, stand-pipe, suppression, fire hydrants, alarm, detection, smoke control, and access control systems.

FPR inspectors witness fire protection system inspections and tests performed by the building owners, the owner representatives, or their contractors.



**Dedicated to our Community,  
Our Profession and Each Other**